After the period of this study the crocodiles were transferred to a natural habitat.

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17. A NEW TURTLE FOR NEPAL

In their appendixed review of the Nepal herpetofauna, Swan and Leviton (1962:135) list the turtle *Kachuga tecta,* family Emydidae, as a hypothetical species and note that it occurs in the adjacent plains of Nepal, defined as "the plains of India within approximately 50 miles of the southern frontier of Nepal." They further state that for west, central, and east Nepal they suspect the "possible presence of the species in Nepal based on the known presence of the species on the plains of India adjacent to Nepal." I would now like to report the first authenticated specimen in Nepal.

On the 27 of May, 1977, I caught, photographed, and released an individual of this species in Janakpur, Dhanusa district, of east Nepal. The total carapace length measured 8.5 cm. I had earlier seen two turtles of this species at the Janakpur fish farm in January of that year. I subsequently again captured individuals of *K. tecta* at the Janakpur fish

farm. *K. tecta* is found to regularly occur in the pond opposite Ram Mandir in Janakpur. I suspect the range of this species in Dhanusa district to be from the Nepal-Bihar border north to just south of the east-west highway, as suitable habitat is known throughout that area. Further north lies the Bhabar zone, contiguous to the southern slope of the Siwalik hills, an area lacking in surface water resources to support the occurrence of *K. tecta.* I have previously reported this finding along with documented photographs to the Robert L. Flemings of Kathmandu, Nepal.

I gratefully acknowledge the assitance of the Dr. Flemings in reviewing this paper.

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18. FIRST RECORD OF THE MILK FISH, *CHANOS CHANOS* (FORSKAL, 1775) FROM IRAN AND THE PERSIAN GULF

The milkfish is a euryhaline, littoral marine species found from the Red Sea and the east coast of Africa through the Indian Ocean to Japan and Australia and through the Pacific Ocean to the west coast of North America (Schuster 1960). It is an important food fish which can be cultured in water of various salinities and its natural distribution is therefore of interest, particularly in respect to the Persian Gulf where adverse environmental conditions do not favour production of protein on the adjacent land and protein consumption of local populations is deficient (Surber 1969).

Eleven specimens of the milkfish were picked up dead from the Baghu River, Hormozdgan Province, Iran (27°18′N, 56°27′E) on 27 November 1976. This locality lies about 14 river kilometres from the Persian Gulf at the Strait of Hormuz. There has not been any previous record of this species from Iran or the Persian Gulf despite surveys by Blegvad and Loppenthin (1944), Khalaf (1961), Mahdi (1962), Kuronuma and Abe (1972) and Saadati (1977). Boulenger (1887) reported the milkfish from Muscat, about 460 km. southeast of the Baghu River.

Meristic and morphometric data are given below and are in general agreement with published information for other parts of the species range (Schuster 1960, Fowler 1956, Day 1875-1878, Misra 1976). Some differences in morphometry are due to these measurements having been made on juvenile specimens which also have the distal parts of paired fins fragmented. Schuster (1960) notes that the head is relatively shorter and broader in older specimens. Dorsal fin IV 11-12, anal fin III 7-8, ventral fin 9-11, total vertebrae including hypural plate as one vertebra 42-43, lateral